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Johann Schmonsees is the Director of Regional Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative, or MEPI, in Tunis, **Tunisia**. The Tunis Regional Office covers MEPI's operations in the entire Mediterranean littoral, from Morocco to the Levant. Johann lived in Tunis once before, as an Arabic student at the Foreign Service Institute Arabic Field School 2005-06.

Johann has been a career Foreign Service Officer with the State Department since 1992. In his Economics specialization, he has served as the sole Economic Officer at the US Embassy in Bern, **Switzerland**, and headed up the Economic and Commercial Section in Port-au-Prince, **Haiti**. He also served as Political-Economic Counselor at the US Embassy in Beirut, **Lebanon**.

In other Foreign Service assignments, Johann has worked on **North Korea's** nuclear program and on security assistance for **Taiwan**, and was Vice-Consul in Georgetown, **Guyana**. In his last assignment, Johann was Chief of the Press Office at the US Embassy in Baghdad, **Iraq**.

Born in the port city of Charleston, South Carolina, on the southeast coast of the United States, Johann received his Bachelor's in International Studies from the University of South Carolina following study abroad programs in England and France. He earned a Master's in International Business Studies from the same university via study and internship programs in France and Germany.

Johann is joined in Tunis by his wife, Chantal Zammar Schmonsees, born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon.